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**Lung Proteinase: Antiproteinase Balance and the Effect of Cigarette Smoke on this Interaction.**

The twin objectives of this investigation are (1) to identify and quantitate the primary factor responsible for protecting the lung against the action of autogenous proteinases which have been previously shown in the investigator's laboratory to produce experimental emphysema in dogs; and (2) to examine the role of cigarette smoke on this interaction. The researchers shall isolate, purify, characterize, and quantitate the normally occurring substance found in lung tissue which inhibits the activity of specific proteolytic enzymes, and determine if this lung antiproteinase found in dogs has its counterpart in the human lung. The production of antiproteinases and their ability to interact with enzymes capable of inducing experimental emphysema in animals will be studied and evaluated in normal animals and those exposed to cigarette smoke.

The investigator's working hypothesis is that emphysema may be induced by the proteolytic activity of specific enzymes from polymorphonuclear leukocytes and/or pulmonary macrophages. The release of these enzymes may be stimulated by various airborne pollutants. These enzymes overwhelm the local defense mechanisms in the lung, including such factors as serum and tissue antiproteinases, and destroy or alter the elastic tissue of the alveoli.

This work has been reported in:

Weinbaum, G., Takamoto, M., Sloan, B., Meranze, D.R. and Kimbel, P. Lung antiproteinase: a possible primary defense against emphysema development. American Review of Respiratory Disease 109:741, 1974.

Weinbaum, G., Takamoto, M., Sloan, B. and Kimbel, P. Partial purifications and characterization of a lung antiproteinase and its differentiation from serum antiproteinases. Abstracts, Aspen Lung Conference. Chest 67(Suppl. 2):31-32, 1975.

Weinbaum, G., Takamoto, M. and Kimbel, P. Further characterization of canine lung antiproteinase and isolation of a similar inhibitor from peripheral human lung. American Review of Respiratory Disease (in press, 1975).

Activation Date: May 1, 1976

Current Grant Level: \$42,838.

1005075529

B-29B